

April 5, 1999

0463 '99 APR 21 11:26

William K. Hubbard  
Dockets Management Branch  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

I've been an oyster consumer in the Pacific Northwest for a number of years, long before the present safeguards have been in effect for the oyster industry. I'm very comfortable with the shellfish I can presently buy on the retail market. I feel it's very unwise to let special interest groups dictate how the industry should be run.

Misinformation and incomplete, thus unreliable, data should not be interpreted as scientific fact. As the saying goes, "If it's not broke, don't fix it." All this over-regulation will make it too costly to produce, and, more than likely, too costly for the common consumer to obtain the delicacies that we now enjoy. The Pacific Northwest offers one of the finest oysters in the world. Don't ruin it.

Sincerely,

*William M. Bumgardner*  
*a concerned citizen*

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